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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,794	08/02/2001	John F. Broker	BRO009-162	4309

7590 01/04/2005

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EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/919,794

Applicant(s)

BROKER ET AL

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Amendment submitted on July 20, 2004.
2. The Affidavit filed on July 20, 2004 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Blair (US 6,502,265) reference.

The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish a reduction to practice of the invention in this country or a NAFTA or WTO member country prior to the effective date of the 6,502,265 reference. The affidavit or declaration and exhibits must clearly explain which facts or data applicant is relying on to show completion of his or her invention prior to the particular date. Vague and general statements in broad terms about what the exhibits describe along with a general assertion that the exhibits describe a reduction to practice "amounts essentially to mere pleading, unsupported by proof or a showing of facts" and, thus, does not satisfy the requirements of 37 CFR 1.131(b). In re Borkowski, 505 F.2d 713, 184 USPQ 29 (CCPA 1974). Applicant must give a clear explanation of the exhibits pointing out exactly what facts are established and relied on by applicant. 505 F.2d at 718-19, 184 USPQ at 33. See also In re Harry, 333 F.2d 920, 142 USPQ 164 (CCPA 1964) (Affidavit "asserts that facts exist but does not tell what they are or when they occurred.").

Thus, the applicant fails to provide the facts that are sufficient to show reduction to practice to the invention prior to the effective date of the reference.

3. The pending claims 1-20 are examining herein as follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blair et al (US 6,502,265).

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

With regard to claim 1:

Similar to the present invention, Blair is directed to the art of laundry appliances, and more particularly, to a menu driven electronic interface system used in controlling the operation of a laundry appliance

Blair discloses a method of conveying information (**Fig.2, 102, 104, 106 and 108**) on a display screen (**100**) of an appliance comprising:

dividing the screen into a plurality of zones (**zones 15, FIG. 2, column 3, lines 46-49**);

displaying a first set of information (**Figs. 2, 8A, 8B, etc., illustrate an initial operating screen set**) in one of the plurality of zones; and

causing said one of the plurality of zones to become enlarged (e.g., **Fig. 3A, etc., wherein selecting Hints & Tips from screen 100, results enlarged menu screen 110**) so as to substantially, entirely encompass the screen, while automatically presenting (**column 8, lines 65-67**) a second set of information representing additional details (**these are the sub menus of Hints & Tips shown in screen 110**) concerning the first set of information on the screen (see also **Figs. 3B-8B, etc., these Figs illustrate hierarchical display of menus**)

With regard to claim 2:

Blair further also discloses presenting the first set of information in the form of codes (Fig. 6, #280, column 5, lines 58-60).

With regard to claim 3:

Blair further discloses providing the additional details to define the codes (Fig. 6, #280, column 5, lines 58-60).

With regard to claim 4:

Blair further discloses diagnostic codes presented as the first set of information (Fig. 6, #250, column 5, lines 44-50).

With regard to claim 5:

Blair also discloses that the plurality of zones is divided into substantially equally sized areas (Figs. 2, 3A, etc).

With regard to claim 6:

Blair further discloses maintaining the first and second sets of information in a hierarchical format (see successive screens displays of Figs. 3A, 3B, 4 5, etc).

With regard to claim 7:

Blair also discloses physically touching the screen to enlarge said one of the pluralities of zones (Figs. 3A, 4, etc, column 2, lines 56-64).

With regard to claims 8-14:

Claims 8-14 are also method claims corresponding to method claims 1-7, respectively. Thus, since claims 8-14 includes relevant limitations similar to those found in claims 1-7, these claims are also rejected for at least the reasons disclosed above with respect to claims 1-7, respectively.

With regard to claims 15-20:

Claims 15, 16, 17, and 18 correspond generally to claims 1, 2, 3, and 5, respectively, and recite similar features in system form, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

With regard to claim 19:

Blair also discloses that the screen constitutes a touch screen (Figs. 3A, 4, etc, column 2, lines 56-64).

With regard to claim 20:

Blair also discloses the appliance constitutes a laundry appliance (Abstract).

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 273-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 630 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (571) 273-4048 Art Unit 2173.

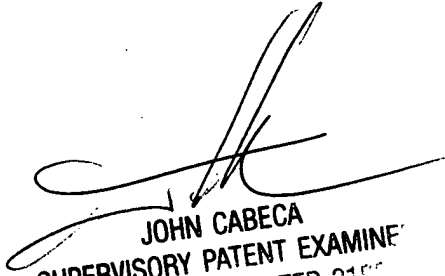
Art Unit: 2173

7. An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit 2173

12/14/04


JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100